

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting17th January 2008

1. Title of Item/Report

Adult Services and Health Select Committee - Review of Alcohol Services

2. Record of the Decision

Members considered a report, presented by the Chairman of the Adult Services and Health Select Committee, that set out the findings and recommendations from the Committee's review of alcohol services in the borough. The report sought to ensure that the Council and its health partners provided the appropriate services and levels of service required to address the impact caused by alcohol consumption.

>It was explained that Members had, over a number of years, been made aware of the issue of alcohol related harm by the Director of Public Health, North Tees Primary Care Trust in annual reports and in particular following the launch of a National Alcohol Strategy.

Members had found that the culture of 'binge' drinking was particularly strong in this region and that traditional alcohol education programmes had had little impact upon this and that, as a society, we were drinking more, with serious social and health consequences.

Information showed that there were a number of gaps in service provision to treat alcohol problems. In particular, the North East fared badly for available services which was confirmed when examining Stockton Borough specifically.

Members noted that, following consideration by Cabinet and health service providers, an action plan would be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how the approved recommendations would be implemented and detailing officers responsible for action and timescales.

RESOLVED that:-

1. the North East Strategic Health Authority working with its public health partners and local authorities, build on the work of local initiatives to develop a campaign to reduce alcohol consumption.

2. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and North Tees Primary Care Trust support the establishment by the SHA of a regional Office for the Safe Consumption of Alcohol (OSCA) in future budget setting processes.
3. a multi-agency group identified by the Director of Public Health use the process of updating the “Alcohol: A digest for Stockton” published following the publication of the National Alcohol Strategy 2004 to inform the drafting of an alcohol strategy to determine the current extent of problems caused by alcohol consumption and identify commissioning needs.
4. the alcohol strategy group develop a 3-year strategy through multi-agency representation, in keeping with the business planning process, to be costed and taken through the usual PCT/LA (as appropriate) financial approval processes.
5. the multi-agency alcohol group undertake a gap analysis that includes needs assessment matched with current service provision. An action plan to address identified gaps would result in the strengthening and development of care pathways.
6. the appropriateness of widening the DAT agenda to include alcohol (DAAT) should be examined as a matter of priority in accordance with the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England 2004 – Action 20.
7. ongoing alcohol screening be provided at UHNT, subject to the pilot project findings, in order to provide signposting to support services.
8. a clinical service specialist be identified to investigate and determine the scale and infrastructure required to provide the appropriate in-patient detoxification services to be commissioned from a range of providers.
9. subject to positive results of a pilot project in Middlesbrough, the Safer Stockton Partnership consider the suitability of introducing alcohol referrals for arrested individuals.
10. North Tees PCT strengthens its alcohol services commissioning process by identifying a lead officer with responsibility for determining / coordinating service provision through appropriate multi-agency partnership arrangements.
11. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council’s PIC (Participation, Involvement and Consultation) Network is consulted to determine how best to deliver services for alcohol reduction / cessation.

12. the Leader of the Council write to Stockton Borough MPs highlighting the concerns identified during this review and request that appropriate representation supporting sensible and responsible alcohol licensing and retailing is made to Government Ministers and departments.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To ensure that the Council and its health partners provide the appropriate services and level of services required to address the impact caused by alcohol consumption that accounts for the greatest level of average years of life lost for both men and women in Stockton Borough.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

None

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

By no later than midnight on Friday 25th January 2008

Proper Officer
21 January 2008